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SECRET

Action

Control: 6184

Rec'd: OCTOBER 9, 1959

2:04 P.M.

PM 4 10

OFFICE
OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
CENTRALEUR
Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 363, OCTOBER 9, 5 P.M.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 363, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 107, PRIORITY
 BONN 321, LONDON 95, PARIS 85.

RMR

REFERENCE: OURTEL 358 TO DEPT, 316 TO BONN AND PREVIOUS

BRITISH COMMANDANT HAS NOT YET MET WITH GENERAL ZAKHAROV.
 AT 1030 THIS MORNING BRITISH STILL WERE AWAITING DEFINITE
APPOINTMENT. DELAY NOT INCONVENIENT IN LIGHT CHANGED SITUATION
 REPORTED OURTEL 359 (317 TO BONN). IN MEANTIME COMMANDANTS
 AND DEPUTIES ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW APPROACH BRITISH
 COMMANDANT SHOULD TAKE WITH ZAKHAROV.

POLADS HAVE ALREADY MET TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON FLAG CRISIS.
 BRITISH AND FRENCH AGREED WITH U.S. ON RECOMMENDED LINE BRITISH
 CHAIRMAN SHOULD TAKE IN MEETING WITH ZAKHAROV, I.E., STRONG
 STATEMENT POINTING OUT DANGER PERMITTING GDR ENCROACHMENTS
 IN WEST BERLIN AND STATING WE EXPECT NO REPETITION OF THIS
 FLAG RAISING (USPOLAD RECOMMENDED ZAKHAROV BE INFORMED WE
 WOULD NOT TOLERATE A REPETITION, BUT BRITISH NOT WILLING TO
 MAKE THIS STRONG A STATEMENT). POLADS ALSO AGREED MAKE
 FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMANDANTS NEXT WEEK AFTER
 REVIEWING LESSONS LEARNED IN HANDLING THIS AFFAIR, INCLUDING
 PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PLANS TO MEET SIMILAR SITUATION
 IN FUTURE.

AS OF NOON TODAY ALL BUT TWO FLAGS OVER S-BAHN INSTALLATIONS
 HAVE DISAPPERED. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES
 ORDERS TO LOWER FLAGS TRANSMITTED FROM KARLSHOF TO REICHSBAHN
 OFFICIALS 3 P.M. OCTOBER 8. REICHSBAHN ISSUED CORRESPONDING
 ORDERS 8 P.M. GDR FLAGS CONTINUE TO BE DISPLAYED IN EAST
 BERLIN.

SECRET

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-2- 363, OCTOBER 9, 5 P.M. FROM BERLIN

OUR INITIAL INTERPRETATION SOVIET INTERVENTION IS TO CONCLUDE GDR ACTION TAKEN WITHOUT APPROVAL SOVIETS OR AT LEAST HIGH LEVEL SOVIET AUTHORITIES. SOVIET INTERVENTION, WHILE DIFFICULT DECISION, WAS NEVERTHELESS CONSISTENT WITH RECENT POLICY LINE EXPRESSED BY KHRUSHCHEV.

LIGHTNER

JR

Note: Mr. McKiernan (GER) notified 3:40 p.m. 10/9/59 CWO-M

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